

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electromagnetic waveform comprising a computer program, the computer program for producing a decomposition of a constraint during functional verification of a representation of an electronic design of an integrated circuit (IC), the computer program comprising the following steps when executed by a data processing system:
 - producing an H term by quantification of a first variable from the constraint;
 - producing a G term by quantification of a second variable, different than the first variable, from the constraint;
- 10 returning the H term and the G term as a decomposition of the constraint if a result of a Boolean connective operator, applied to the H term and the G term, is functionally equivalent to the constraint.
2. A method for producing a decomposition of a constraint, comprising:
 - producing an H term by quantification of a first variable from the constraint;
 - producing a G term by quantification of a second variable, different than the first variable, from the constraint;
 - returning the H term and the G term as a decomposition of the constraint if a result of a Boolean connective operator, applied to the H term and the G term, is functionally equivalent to the constraint.
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3. A method for producing a decomposition of a constraint, comprising:
 - producing an H term by quantification of a first variable from the constraint;
 - producing a G term by successively quantifying an additional variable from the constraint, different than the first variable, each time a result of a Boolean connective operator, applied to the H term and the successively quantified G term, is functionally equivalent to the constraint.
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4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

recursively repeating the steps of producing an H term and producing a G term, with the H term taking a place of the constraint in the recursion; and ending the recursion when the H term produced is a function of no variables.

- 5 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
returning, as a decomposition of the constraint, a set containing each G term produced prior to a subsequent recursion.
- 10 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
merging overlapping factors, in the set containing each G term produced prior to a subsequent recursion, prior to returning the set as a decomposition of the constraint.
- 15 7. The method of claim 2, wherein the decomposition is an AND decomposition, the quantification is existential quantification and the Boolean connective operator is an AND operator.
- 20 8. The method of claim 2, wherein the decomposition is an OR decomposition, the quantification is universal quantification and the Boolean connective operator is an OR operator.
- 25 9. The method of claim 3, wherein the decomposition is an AND decomposition, the quantification is existential quantification and the Boolean connective operator is an AND operator.
- 30 10. The method of claim 3, wherein the decomposition is an OR decomposition, the quantification is universal quantification and the Boolean connective operator is an OR operator.
11. A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for producing a decomposition of a constraint, the computer program product including:

computer readable program code devices configured to cause a computer to effect producing an H term by quantification of a first variable from the constraint;

computer readable program code devices configured to cause a computer to effect producing a G term by quantification of a second variable, different than the first 5 variable, from the constraint;

computer readable program code devices configured to cause a computer to effect returning the H term and the G term as a decomposition of the constraint if a result of a Boolean connective operator, applied to the H term and the G term, is functionally equivalent to the constraint.

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12. An electromagnetic waveform comprising a computer program, the computer program for determining a decomposition of a constraint, the computer program comprising the following steps when executed by a data processing system:

producing an H term by quantification of a first variable from the constraint;

15 producing a G term by quantification of a second variable, different than the first variable, from the constraint;

returning the H term and the G term as a decomposition of the constraint if a result of a Boolean connective operator, applied to the H term and the G term, is functionally equivalent to the constraint.

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13. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for producing a decomposition of a constraint, the computer program product including:

25 computer readable program code devices configured to cause a computer to effect producing an H term by quantification of a first variable from the constraint;

computer readable program code devices configured to cause a computer to effect producing a G term by successively quantifying an additional variable from the constraint, different than the first variable, each time a result of a Boolean connective operator, applied to the H term and the successively quantified G term, is functionally 30 equivalent to the constraint.

14. An electromagnetic waveform comprising a computer program, the computer program for determining a decomposition of a constraint, the computer program comprising the following steps when executed by a data processing system:

5 producing an H term by quantification of a first variable from the constraint;

 producing a G term by successively quantifying an additional variable from the constraint, different than the first variable, each time a result of a Boolean connective operator, applied to the H term and the successively quantified G term, is functionally equivalent to the constraint.